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OXC-0301-68

Copy 2 of 4.

5 April 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous topics

1. On 4 April Kelly Johnson called and raised the following:

a. Any word on the OXCART program? He said in view of the Lockheed 1011 program there will be great demand for shifting people from the Skunk Works to the 1011 program unless adequate reasons exist for retaining them. I told him we are hoping to receive a decision around 15 April regarding the future of the OXCART program.

b. Kelly visited Washington on 3 April and met with several Navy Admirals including Richardson with regard to the U-2R relay platform proposal which Kelly had submitted to the Navy. Following this meeting [REDACTED] and Kelly discussed the possibility of using a U-2R configured (hatch-mounted) for relay in connection with a Fleet exercise off San Diego around 23 April. I told Kelly I agreed in principle to using possibly #4 for this purpose but that I would check and get back to him on this matter. I indicated that I would also want to talk to [REDACTED] regarding the Navy's underwriting the cost of this exercise.

25X1A

(Comment: It would appear to be in the best interests of the Government to be responsive to the Navy requirement which may entail flights for a week or less. If the Navy decides to buy U-2R's it would be of benefit to us in keeping the production line open.)

2. During the DD/S&T staff meeting on 4 April the following items of interest were mentioned: 25X1A

a. Carl Duckett met with [REDACTED] on the following of immediate interest to OSA:

25X1A (1) [REDACTED] mindful of the need for an early decision on OXCART is getting paper work organized for submission to the EXCOM principals by about 9 April concerning various options

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relating to the future of OXCART. He hopes that an EXCOM meeting may take place by 15 April. [REDACTED] indicated that among the options will be one covering how the Air Force would propose to run and manage a covert OXCART program.

25X1A

25X1A

(2) As a result of a frank discussion concerning the NRO Staff, it was decided to remove [REDACTED] from his assignment with the NRO Staff inasmuch as he does not really have a job there. [REDACTED] is going to take a hard look at additional slots for Agency people for the NRO Staff including the R&D Chief slot.

25X1A

25X1A

3. During a luncheon discussion with Mr. Duckett, Mr. Helms made the following comment regarding OXCART:

a. Some time ago at a [REDACTED] meeting Ambassador Bohlen was charged with writing a paper regarding the civilian/military overflight of denied areas and the pro's and con's thereof.

(Carl Duckett suggests we raise this informally with McAfee in order to perhaps prod Bohlen on the aforementioned item. Carl feels it would be useful to have such a paper before the next EXCOM meeting.)

25X1A

25X1A

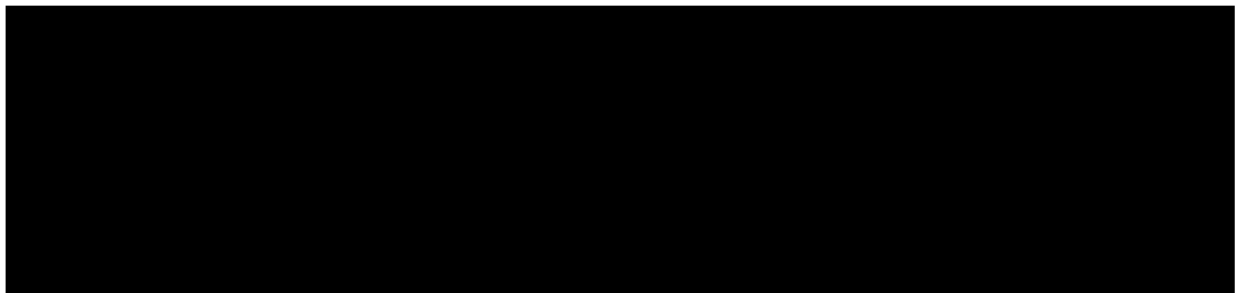
25X1A

b. Mr. Helms agreed with Mr. Duckett that it would be a good idea to shop around within the Agency to see if we can come up with reasons why [REDACTED] should be retained, in the event the OX program folds. Carl thinks it would be a good idea to have a paper on this including what is the irreducible number of dollars required to keep [REDACTED] open on a modest scale. Carl said he raised this matter with [REDACTED] who likewise will take a look at the Air Force's interest in keeping [REDACTED] open for ad hoc program needs for the future.

25X1A

25X1A

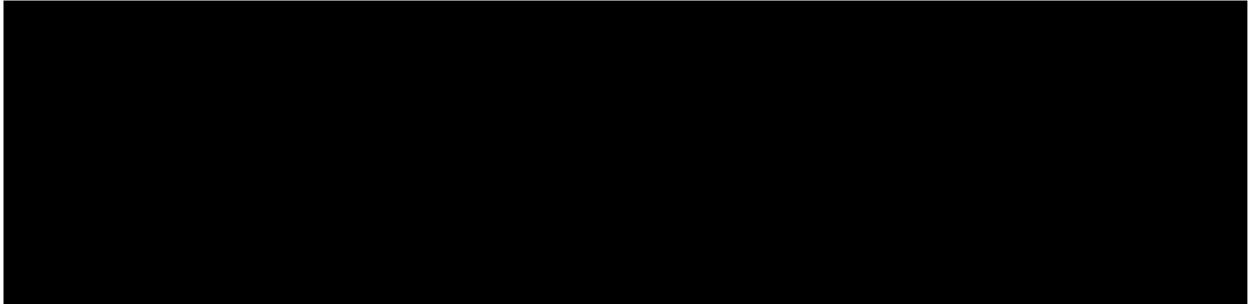
(Comment: Inasmuch as Helms was interested in the [REDACTED] matter in case OXCART folds, I am not too happy about the thrust of this for the future of OXCART.)



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25X1A



The latter will give the opposition ammunition to protest flights of the A-12 and SR-71 inasmuch as they may be regarded as offensive weapons.)

The book also has many references to the U-2 program and we will have to assess the damage after we get our hands on a copy.

25X1A



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OX CART

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